

**Department of Public Health and Human Services
Vocational Rehabilitation Services
Extended Employment Program**

Statistical Information

- 282 individuals in Montana currently receive services under the Extended Employment (EE) program.
- 50 others are in VR funded supported employment services and once stable in their jobs, will be funded through the EE program.
- Statewide, there are 231 EE clients on a waiting list who are awaiting an opportunity to work, but cannot yet because of budgetary limits.
- Individuals placed on the waiting list can wait up to several years before funding is available to serve them through the EE program.
- Over 95% of the money in the EE budget is spent directly on helping clients remain employed; less than 5% is spent on administration.
- The EE program is entirely state-funded; there is no federal match.

Reasons to Support the EE Program

- The EE program was created over 25 years ago to serve individuals in Montana who have no other funding sources to rely upon.
- The sole purpose of the EE program is to help the most severely disabled Montanans work and be productive citizens.
- EE program participants who are not given the opportunity to work may be forced to use other state-funded services, costing the taxpayers more money in the long run.
- Many EE clients work in positions that would be difficult for employers to fill with non-disabled workers.
- Since EE is the only program available to participants to help them maintain employment, funding cuts will inevitably lead to loss of support services and job losses.

Respectfully submitted,

Reg Gibbs, MS

Reg Gibbs, MS
EE Administrator
Rocky Mountain Rehab, P.C.
Billings, MT
(406) 259-7495
rgibbs@rmree.com